

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJ: LABOR: THE PURGE OF VITO SCALIA

REF: ROME'S 6629

1. /SUMMARY./ TEN CISL MINORITY LEADERS HAVE RESIGNED FROM THE CISL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN PROTEST AGAINST THE PURGE OF VITO SCALIA WHICH IS BEING PRESSED BY THE CISL MAJORITY.

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY DONAT-CATTIN, LEADER OF THE DC'S LEFT WING, HAS DENOUNCED THE PURGE AS BEING UNWORTHY OF CISL AND A MAJOR DISSERVICE TO THE CAUSE OF LABOR UNIFICATION. IN UIL, THE SOCIALISTS ARE CALLING FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS TO CLARIFY SHARPENING DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION. /END SUMMARY./

2. TENSION SURROUNDING THE ATTEMPTED PURGE OF CISL MINORITY LEADER SCALIA WAS HEIGHTENED TODAY WHEN TEN CISL MINORITY FIGURES TENDERED THEIR RESIGNATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THE GROUP, WHICH INCLUDES FARM WORKERS CHIEF SARTORI AND NATIONAL SECRETARY TACCONI(WHO ALSO ANNOUNCED HIS RESIGNATION AS SECRETARY) EXPLAINED ITS ACTION BY SAYING IT DID NOT WISH "TO BE UNCLASSIFIED

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INVOLVED IN RESPONSIBILITY FOR AN AUTHORITARIAN AND ANTI

DEMOCRATIC EXERCISE" AND "TO DENOUNCE BEFORE THE ITALIAN WORKERS THE EXTENT OF DETERIORATION" WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE IN CISL. THE GROUP EMPHASIZED ITS CONVICTION THAT THE ACTION AGAINST SCALIA IS, IN FACT, DIRECTED AGAINST THE CISL MINORITY AS A WHOLE.

3. ALSO TODAY, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY DONAT-CATTIN, LEADER OF THE LEFT WING /FORZE NUOVE/ FACTION IN THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, DENOUNCED THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST SCALIA AS "A SECTARIAN INITIATIVE WHICH DOES NOT CORRESPOND TO THE TRADITIONS" OF CISL AND WHICH "REDUCES LIBERTY" WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION. HE ADDED THAT THE ACTION "GOES FAR BEYOND A PERSONAL ONE, AFFECTING A WORLD AND A HISTORY (E.E., THE CISL MINORITY) WHICH, SHOULD THE INTENTIONS (AGAINST SCALIA) BE CARRIED INTO EFFECT, WOULD CONSTRAIN THEM TO DEFEND THEMSELVES WITH EXTREME RIGOR." DONAT-CATTIN MADE CLEAR THAT "WE OF THE DC LEFT DO NOT SHARE MOST OF THE POSITIONS ASSUMED BY SCALIA" AND ARE "CONVINCED BELIEVERS IN AN ORDERLY PROCESS OF LABOR UNIFICATION." HE ACCUSED THD PROMOTORS OF SCALIA'S EXPULSION OF BECOMING "THE WRETCHED STANDARD BEARERS OF THE FORCES HOSTILE TO LABOR UNITY," SETTING INTO MOTION -A SERIES OF FATAL REACTIONS WHICH CAN SET BACK THE LABOR MOVEMENT FOR 20 YEARS.

4. MEANWHILE, THINGS ARE ALSO STIRRING IN THE UIL. NATIONAL SECRETARY RUFINO (SOCIALIST) HAS RENEWED HIS CALL FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS OF UIL TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF LABOR UNIFICATION. UIL SEC GEN VANNI, WHO INCREASINGLY SEEMS TO VISUALIZE UIL AS A POSSIBLE REFUGE FOR DISSIDENT CISL ELEMENTS, HAS REACTED CALMLY. SOCIALIST UNHAPPINESS IS CAUSED BY THE FACT THAT, WITH THE RECENT DEFECTIONS FROM ITS RANKS OF THE SIMONCINI FACTION, VANNI NOW COMMANDS THE REQUISITE 60 P/O MAJORITY TO ESTABLISH BINDING UIL POLICY. VANNI'S CALM, IN TURN, DERIVES FROM HIS KNOWLEDGE THAT THE RECENTLY STRENGTHENED REPUBLICAN AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC RANKS IN UIL WOULD BE REFLECTED IN A NEW CONGRESS.

5. /COMMENT/: THE ACTION OF THE TEN CISL MINORITY MEMBERS, TOGETHER WITH DONAT-CATTIN'S VIRULENT DENUNCIATION, WILL MAXIMIZE THE PRESSURE ON CISL SEC GEN STORTI. IN A COMMENT, SARTORI HAS INDICATED THAT THE RESIGNATIONS ARE INTENDED AS UNCLASSIFIED

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"AN ULTIMATE ACT IN ORDER TO SHAKE UP THIS FATAL SELF-DESTRUCTION IN THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP." THIS ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THE RESIGNATIONS CAN BE WITHDRAWN IF THE MOVES AGAINST SCALIA, I.E., THE CISL MINORITY, ARE DROPPED. THE BALL IS NOW CLEARLY IN THE COURT OF THE CISL MAJORITY. VOLPE

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